(a) the details of the proposals pending for approval of his Ministry under 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana', State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals from the State of Uttaranchal for construction of roads under the said scheme are pending with Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the norms for approval of proposals under the said scheme are proposed to be relaxed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per available information, proposal to construct Shivpuri-Timli Marg over 16.055 hectare of forest land under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, in District Tehri, Uttaranchal, has already been processed by the Regional Office, Lucknow and it is required to be placed before State Advisory Group constituted at the level of Regional Office for recommendation. Further, five proposals in respect of Himachal Pradesh namely, Khora-Age to Bhallan-II road, Link road to village Bargal, Brow to Poshna road, Bhanuin Beothi-Koni Ki Behi road, and Sainj-Bara Bata Seri road, are being processed at Regional Office, Chandigarh. There are no proposals from any other State/UT.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Tiger population in Ranthambhore

520. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a report recently that the tiger population in Ranthambhore has suddenly dropped; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to investigate the causes and take remedial action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such report has come to light from State Government except some media reports.

(b) The State has been advised to ensure protection for tiger conservation through systemic improvement. Further, the following measures have been taken at the Government of India level to protect wild animals in the country:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

Polluting Industrial units

521. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that polluting industrial units continue as a threat to environment;

(b) if so, the number of industries which are recognized in Polluting Category, State-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken to prevent it, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?